

AMHERST/LA PAZ CENTRO SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 17, 2010

PRESENT: Carol Baker, Toby Bobbitt, Liz Etheridge, Chuck and Nancy Milch, Kathy and Walter Mullin, Mary Santiago, Anne and Ed Stanek.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance after last meeting:	\$10,726
Donations since then:	\$209
Wire to be sent:	\$804

This includes: \$77/mo for Julio's salary, totaling \$231 for 3 months.

\$14/mo for lights, totaling \$42

\$11.50/mo for office supplies, totaling \$35

\$8/mo for tutoring, totaling \$25

\$11.50/mo for water, totaling \$35

Julio reports that the charge for lights has suddenly increased from \$14 per month to \$50 per month and that he owes \$100, resulting in the Community Center lights having been shut off by the electric company. We are asking him to send us bills and receipts before reimbursing him this money.

Liz volunteered Steve to investigate electricity rates in Nicaragua to see if this increase is happening across the board in that country.

Kathy and Mary report that there has been some progress on the checking account in Nicaragua. It may be reopened by the end of April. We are expecting to have at least \$5500 in the account (\$2500 minimum plus the \$3000 we had sent for the land).

Liz and Mary will be traveling together to La Paz Centro this summer. They hope to go during the first week of July, though Julio would prefer them to come at the end of July when he has vacation.

## MISSION STATEMENT DISCUSSION

We spent the rest of the meeting in discussion, laying a foundation for our mission vision in La Paz Centro. Nancy had done some helpful research, so we framed our discussion around the following ideas:

1. PURPOSE: What are the needs that exist in La Paz Centro that we would like to address?
2. BUSINESS: What are we actually doing to address these needs?
3. VALUES: What are the principles and beliefs that guide our work?

We brainstormed lists, with both Nicaragua and Amherst in mind as we see our work as focusing on both towns.

A: Amherst

N: Nicaragua

### NEEDS

N/A Community development

N/A Cultural exchange and awareness

N Health education

A Need to find simpler way of life

A Need to make the world a better place

A Need to feel connected with the greater world

N Provide educational opportunities

N/A Develop leadership skills

### BUSINESS

Providing scholarships through fundraising

Promoting delegations

Sending committee representatives to assess community needs in La Paz Centro and evaluate effectiveness of our program/money sent

Supporting community participation in both towns

Facilitating people to people relationships

Presentations to the Amherst community

Evaluating requests for special projects in La Paz Centro

Liaisoning/communicating between committees

## VALUES

Mutual respect

Diversity

Trust

Cultural understanding

Importance of education

Empowerment

Collaboration

Importance of communication

We adjourned the meeting but will continue our discussion at the next meeting. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Lower Internal Meeting Room of the Bangs Center.**

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Stanek,

Chair